MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING
Monday, April 27, 2009
Library Media Center, Beecher Road School

CALL TO ORDER: Sheila McCreven, Chair called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Sheila McCreven, Chair; Mr. David Barkin, Vice Chair; Mr. Michael Ewing, Secretary; Dr. Thomas Handler, Ms. Susan Kelley, Mr. Carl Lindskog, Ms. Debby Pines and Ms. Carolyn Wolff.

STAFF: Dr. Guy Stella, Superintendent; Chuck Zettergren, Business Manager; Carol Bequary, Primary Grades Principal; MaryLou Torre, Intermediate Grades Principal; and Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Joseph Holowienko, WEA; Sandy Stein, Board of Selectmen; Margaret Hamilton, PTO; Alydon Hynes and Steven Fleischman, community.

BOARD CORRESPONDENCE - None

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes
MOTION #1 – MINUTES, MARCH 16, 2009 MEETING
Move that we approve the minutes of the March 16, 2009 Meeting.
Mr. Barkin
Second by Mr. Ewing
As the minutes were not posted, this motion was withdrawn.
WITHDRAWN

REPORTS

Superintendent's Report

- *Beecher Road School Update* – Superintendent Stella highlighted the recent visit of 6th grade students from China, his presentation at Unilever on the cultural aspects of China in a global learning exchange of student learning and release of the salmon into the Connecticut River. An Intergenerational Spelling Bee was held with the 6th Graders and seniors at the Senior Center earlier in the day.

- *Loop Update* – Superintendent Stella apprised the Board of the recent bid submissions. Unfortunately, all bids were over budget. It was agreed the bids would be further analyzed, and discussions held with First Selectman Sheehy and Matt Giglietti to gather additional information and guidance from the Town. It was also suggested that reference checks be conducted on several of the low bidders to provide additional background information.

PTO Update: Ms. Hamilton informed the Board that approximately $31,000 has been raised by the PTO in support of the Loop. This has been a true community effort by students, staff, parents and the community-at-large. The recently held Book Fair was a success and Teacher Appreciation Day will be held on Tuesday, May 5.

Facilities Committee: Ms. Pines reviewed the April 3 meeting. The committee discussed suggestions to claim areas in the building for a joint building cleanliness project with staff and students. The donation of a scoreboard was reviewed and accepted. The Recreation Department will coordinate the installation of the scoreboard in the South Gym. Spring maintenance around the BRS grounds and garden areas will commence in the coming weeks.

Curriculum Committee: – No Report.

Policy Committee: – Mr. Ewing noted that Policies 9122 and 9222 would be referred back to Committee for further review regarding discrepancies in the requirements of Vice Chair. Further, Policy 9321 should also be reviewed for conflicts with Vice Chair responsibilities. It was noted that Policy 1111 was being presented this evening for full Board discussion. It was suggested that Policy 1111 be reviewed in a joint meeting with Amity.

MOTION #2 – POLICY 9110

Move that we adopt Policy 9110 (Number of Members, Terms of Office).

Mr. Ewing
Second by Ms. Pines

It was noted that Policy 9110 also referenced Vice Chair specifics and should be referred back to Committee. There was discussion as to whether or not this Board should have a Vice Chair designation as it is not required in statute.

WITHDRAWN

CABE Liaison Report – Ms. McCreven noted that Board members were receiving information directly from CABE and there was no need for a formal report.

ACES Liaison Report – Ms. Pines stated the employee daycare center has been phased out, Meriden has become an official partner in the Wintergreen Magnet School, the drivers/aides are in binding arbitration and ACES hopes to become a state-approved inspection site in October.

NEW BUSINESS

Certified Staff Retirement – Superintendent Stella informed the Board he had received the retirement of Michale Thalberg at the end of the 2008/09 school year.

MOTION #3 –CERTIFIED STAFF RETIREMENT (THALBERG)

Move that we accept the retirement of Michale Thalberg at the end of the 2008/09 school year with regret.

Ms. Pines
Second by Mr. Ewing
UNANIMOUS

Certified Staff Leave of Absence

Superintendent Stella presented two leave of absence requests for the 2009/10 school year. It was his recommendation that both requests be granted.

MOTION #4- CERTIFIED STAFF LEAVE OF ABSENCE (BUZZARD)

Move that we grant Arianne Buzzard a leave of absence for the 2009/10 school year.

Mr. Barkin
Second by Mr. Lindskog
UNANIMOUS

MOTION #5 - CERTIFIED STAFF LEAVE OF ABSENCE (HALSEY)

Move that we grant Grace Halsey a leave of absence for the 2009/10 school year.

Dr. Handler
Second by Mr. Lindskog
UNANIMOUS

FINANCE

Mr. Lindskog reviewed the April 21 Finance Committee meeting and presented the Financial Reports.

MOTION #6 – 2008/09 BOARD OF EDUCATION MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS
Move that we accept the data recorded on F1-F7 for the period ending March 31, 2009.

Mr. Lindskog
Second by Mr. Ewing
UNANIMOUS

Mr. Zettergren noted that the projected variance for the subsidy of the Cafeteria account will be provided next month.

Budget Transfer– Superintendent Stella explained the request for a transfer to support the Columbia Reader's Workshop Institute at BRS is scheduled for Tuesday, June 23 to Friday, June 26.

MOTION #7 – 2008/09 BOARD OF EDUCATION TRANSFER REQUEST
Move that we authorize administration to transfer funds as documented in the data on F11 and presented by the Business Manager.

Mr. Lindskog
Second by Dr. Handler
UNANIMOUS

Transportation Contract Extension
Superintendent Stella presented the Transportation Contract extension with the Owner/Operators. This contract extension has been ratified by Amity as well as Orange and Bethany.

MOTION #8 - TRANSPORTATION CONTRACT EXTENSION
Move that we enter into a new transportation contract with our Owner/Contractors from July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2014 with a 2% increase per school year.

Mr. Lindskog
Second by Ms. Pines

Discussion ensued as to whether buses had been retrofitted with clean air enhancements as requested during previous contract negotiations. The Board requested information be submitted on the age of the fleet and the number of retrofitted buses prior to ratification of this contract extension.

WITHDRAWN

RECEIVE & FILE – None

OLD BUSINESS – None

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

MOTION #9 - EXECUTIVE SESSION
Move that we go into Executive Session for discussion of a Board Self-Evaluation (8:33 PM).

Ms. McCreven
Second by Ms. Kelley
UNANIMOUS

CALL TO ORDER: Sheila McCreven, Chair called the Executive Session to order (8:39 PM).

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Sheila McCreven, Chair; Mr. David Barkin, Vice Chair; Mr. Michael Ewing, Secretary; Dr. Thomas Handler, Ms. Susan Kelley, Mr. Carl Lindskog, Ms. Debby Pines and Ms. Carolyn Wolff.

STAFF: Dr. Guy Stella, Superintendent.

The Board reviewed and discussed a Board Self Evaluation.

Mr. Lindskog and Mr. Ewing left the meeting (8:55 PM).

MOTION #10 - RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

Move to return to Public Session (9:23 PM).

Dr. Handler
Second by Ms. Pines
UNANIMOUS

MOTION TO ADJOURN: (9:23 PM)

Ms. Pines
Second by Dr. Handler
UNANIMOUS

Recorded by Marsha DeGennaro, Clerk of the Board